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(S) NATIONAL RECONNAISSANCE OFFICE
WASHINGTON, D.C.

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

18 March 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR DEPUTY SECRETARY OF DEFENSE ELLSWORTH

SUBJECT: National Reconnaissance Program Charter

The 11 March 1976 CFI directed that the draft charter be reviewed by a CFI task group, with the view toward having it issued as a CFI directive. [redacted] IC Staff, called the first meeting of the Task Group on 16 March. I attended the meeting representing the NRO; the CIA was represented by [redacted] and Les Dirks. The purpose of the meeting was to [redacted] Staff's proposed changes to the draft NRP Charter prepared by Mr. Plummer and forwarded to the CFI by yourself.

Except for one area we were able to redraft a charter acceptable for CFI review. Your comments were incorporated as follows:

a. Paragraph c - Now provides for the transfer of collection requirements and priorities from the DCI to the Secretary of Defense in time of war.

b. Paragraph b - Now defines the Secretary of Defense's responsibilities to direct, fund, and operate the NRP.

We were unable to agree on the IC Staff's role with regard to the NRP.

a. The DNRO, as previously discussed with both you and the DCI, would limit the IC Staff's involvement to one of system level cost and performance data required to perform intelligence value assessments and cross program trade-offs as directed by the CFI. The NRO would, as in the past, provide staff support to the CFI (or individual members) with respect to system design, capabilities, costs, planning, programming, budgeting, and internal management of the NRP.

b. The IC Staff proposes total staff support to the CFI by the IC Staff. The NRO would be required to provide such NRP information and data at whatever level of detail the IC Staff might specify.

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As Mr. Plummer has pointed out to both you and the DCI, the NRO Staff and Program Offices are very small. The Staff, Program Offices, and system contractors are not staffed to provide voluminous reports and/or briefings to various staff elements within the intelligence community. The NRO has from its very inception been structured to support a very limited number of decision makers and to provide system level performance and cost data to enable the intelligence and requirements community to perform value assessments of new systems or proposed changes to existing systems.

If the CFI determines that the NRO should provide whatever data is requested by the IC Staff or by other staff elements within the intelligence community, we can, of course, restructure the organization to accommodate the level of support desired. However, the DNRO feels very strongly on this point and feels that it would adversely affect the efficient conduct of the program. He would appreciate the opportunity to participate in the CFI discussion on [redacted]er.

[redacted]

Charles W. Cook
Acting Director

Attachment
IC Staff [redacted], dtd 17 Mar 76,
w/atch [redacted] 11226/76)

cc: Mr [redacted]

[redacted]

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THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20505

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17 March 1976

Intelligence Community Staff

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director, National Reconnaissance Office
Deputy Director for Science and Technology, CIA

FROM [redacted] Task Group

SUBJECT : Revision of NRP Charter

1. Attached is a copy of the proposed Committee on Foreign Intelligence Directive, "National Reconnaissance Activities" which would replace the 1965 agreement between the Secretary of Defense and the Director of Central Intelligence. The attached draft resulted from a 16 March meeting of a task group established at request of the Committee on Foreign Intelligence. The task group addressed drafts developed from a proposed NRP charter which the Deputy Secretary of Defense tabled at the CFI meeting of 11 March.

2. Since the CFI proposes to issue the charter as a CFI Directive the title, "National Reconnaissance Activities," is used so it could be included in an unclassified listing of the titles of CFI Directives, should the CFI elect to issue such.

3. At close of the 16 March task group session some question remained as to whether there might exist a blanket directive covering Defense Department/CIA relationships in time of war (and not merely in theaters of war). Recheck has indicated no such directive exists, so it is proposed that paragraph 3.c. include provision that in time of war the Secretary of Defense shall be responsible for establishment of collection requirements and target priorities.

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4. The only matter on which agreement was not reached within the task group is at paragraph 3.g., where differing NRO and Intelligence Community Staff views are presented concerning the staffing of the Committee on Foreign Intelligence. The NRO position is based primarily on its view of security requirements and a desire to continue procedures used in providing information to the EXCOM, which the CFI has replaced. The ICS view is based on the charge in Executive Order 11905 (Section 3 (b) (3)) that "the CFI shall be supported by the Intelligence Community Staff."

5. It is requested that the addressees coordinate the attached draft within the Department of Defense and the CIA and advise me as to suitability of the draft for submission to the Committee on Foreign Intelligence for its approval.

[redacted]

cc:
Chairman, COMIREX
Chairman, SIGINT Committee

Attachment
As stated

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE

DIRECTIVE NO.

NATIONAL RECONNAISSANCE ACTIVITIES

1. There is hereby created a National Reconnaissance Program (NRP) for the collection of foreign intelligence by satellites or such other overhead means as may be assigned. The NRP shall combine activities of the Department of Defense and the Central Intelligence Agency to assure that potentialities of U.S. technology and all operational resources and facilities are aggressively and imaginatively exploited to develop and operate systems for the collection of foreign intelligence which are fully responsive to the Government's foreign intelligence needs and objectives. As a function of national importance, the NRP is assigned the highest priority for DoD and industrial support.

2. The Program will be managed by a National Reconnaissance Office (NRO), a special office within the Department of Defense for the collection of specialized intelligence information through reconnaissance programs. This charter sets forth the responsibilities of the NRO, which will be conducted in accordance with the provisions of Executive Order 11905, "United States Foreign Intelligence Activities," 18 February 1976, and its implementing directives.

3. Responsibilities

a. The Secretary of Defense, Committee on Foreign Intelligence (CFI), and the Director of Central Intelligence shall exercise such authority over the NRP as is provided by Executive Order 11905 and by National Security Council Directives.

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* This Directive supersedes the "Agreement for Reorganization of the National Reconnaissance Program," signed by the Deputy Secretary of Defense and the Director of Central Intelligence, dated 11 August 1965.

b. The Secretary of Defense shall direct, fund and operate the NRP. With the concurrence of the Director of Central Intelligence, he shall appoint a senior Department of Defense statutory official to be the Director of the NRO (DNRO). The Deputy Director of the NRO will be selected by the DNRO with the concurrence of the Director of Central Intelligence. The Secretary of Defense and the Director of Central Intelligence shall provide the necessary support to execute the Program.

c. The DNRO shall satisfy, through conduct of the NRP, foreign intelligence collection requirements and priorities as established for the NRP by the Director of Central Intelligence. When U.S. forces are engaged in active theaters of war, or when the President so directs, establishment of collection requirements and target priorities will be a responsibility of the Secretary of Defense.

d. The DNRO shall establish a joint staff including representation from organizations involved in the NRP to support the Program. Program offices responsible to the DNRO shall be established in appropriate agencies of the Department of Defense, the military services, and the Central Intelligence Agency for the implementation of the NRP. The DNRO shall have the authority to assign responsibilities to the various program offices and departments and agencies of the Government, according to their capabilities and consistent with program guidance from the Committee on Foreign Intelligence

e. The DNRO shall direct and manage the NRP. Planning and programming for satellite systems or other designated overhead collectors, as approved by the Committee on Foreign Intelligence for the collection of national intelligence information, are the sole responsibility of the DNRO. He shall be responsible for directing the activities conducted by the program offices in research, development, procurement, operation and control of satellite or other designated overhead collectors of foreign intelligence information. The NRO will not produce finished intelligence.

f. The DNRO shall submit to the Operations Advisory Group requests for approval to conduct foreign intelligence collection activities under such arrangements as may be directed by the Operations Advisory Group.

g. (NOTE: There is a split view on this program.)

NRO View

The DNRO shall provide staff support to the Committee on Foreign Intelligence for the NRP. The Intelligence Community Staff (ICS) will be furnished system-level performance and cost data required to perform value assessments as directed by the Committee on Foreign Intelligence.

Intelligence Community Staff Proposal

The DNRO shall provide to the Committee on Foreign Intelligence, and to the Intelligence Community Staff for its staff support to the Committee on Foreign Intelligence, such information as is needed for execution of the Committee's responsibilities, including system-level performance and cost data required by the ICS to perform value assessments as directed by the Committee on Foreign Intelligence.

h. Only those program offices participating in the NRP shall engage in reconnaissance intelligence collection using satellites or conduct studies or advanced technology development related thereto.

i. The DNRO shall establish direct lines of control and communication to all elements of the NRO and supporting organizations for development, operations, and logistics activities. The NRO shall not be subject to DoD or CIA procurement or administrative instructions or directives except as their application may be beneficial to the management of the NRP, as determined by the DNRO.

j. The DNRO shall establish a fiscal control, accounting, and reporting procedure to ensure that all funds obligated and expended in support of the NRP are fully accounted for and appropriately utilized.

k. The DoD Inspector General and General Counsel will be responsible for oversight of the NRO, in compliance with Sections 5 and 6 of the Executive Order 11905.

l. Contract audit functions will be performed by the Defense Contract Audit Agency, in accordance with covert security procedures.

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m. The DNRO shall prepare the budget and program recommendations for the NRP and submit them under procedures established by the CFI for approval and inclusion in the overall intelligence budget. The DNRO shall defend the NRP through briefings to the Congress or elsewhere under procedures approved by the CFI.

n. The DNRO shall have reprogramming authority within the approved NRP, subject to rules governing and reprogramming of funds adopted by the CFI.

o. The DNRO is designated as the Head of a Procuring Agency and may redelegate to the extent of his legal authority. He shall also have the authority to approve the lease or procurement of automated data processing equipment integral to NRP systems.

p. The DNRO shall establish the manning requirements for the NRO and request manpower support from the appropriate agencies and departments.

q. The NRP shall be considered a covert activity of the U.S. Government and will not, as a matter of policy, be publicly acknowledged without the approval of the DCI. The DNRO is responsible for recommending to the DCI the security measures necessary for the protection of the NRP for implementation of security procedures.

Director of Central Intelligence	Deputy Secretary of Defense	Deputy Assistant for National Security Affair